

Ramblin' NoDaks

September 2015

DOWN IN THE BOONDOCKS

Down in the Boondocks was the place to be the weekend of September 10-13th. Butch and MaryLou Wood hosted a fabulous Rally for us at their farm. They provided a nice grassy area for us to park our coaches, a large tent where we had all our meals and our meeting along with door prizes, game prizes, welcome bags and all the fun you could want!! On Thursday evening we had a nice time of visiting while we enjoyed a large array of appetizers for our supper. The wind came up and it got a little chilly, so we called it a night. Friday came, sunny and beautiful and we started our day with a delicious breakfast. We then toured the Great River Energy Coal Creek Station coal mine. We boarded a bus and had the ride of our life! We had a spunky gal as our tour guide and she offered us a wealth of interesting information .. and a ride right through the mine! We were able to get up close and personal to the drag line, which was huge! We even got to pick up our own piece of coal from the sight! Lunch on our own and then off to the Blue Flint Ethanol plant. It was interesting that they get their power from the nearby coal mine. They process the corn into ethanol and all of the by-products are used in one way or another — nothing is wasted! Back to the farm for a Happy Hour before our potluck meal. Butch then started a huge bonfire which we all sat around and enjoyed some accordion music by Mike! A perfect ending to a perfect day! Saturday dawned, another sunny day! After our breakfast, we held our business meeting with the election of officers. The minutes from this meeting are included with this Newsletter. We had lunch on our own and then it was time for some games — boondock style! Everyone joined in the fun and we won some great prizes. There was some free-time before our evening meal, so soon a jam session and sing-along was organized! After our delicious catered meal, we got right down to a serious game of horse racing! And when the sun went down and it got dark, Brian Little from the Canadian Northern Lights chapter, gave a very interesting power point presentation on the Joint Rally that they are planning for Winnipeg in June of 2016. Pam then gave a brief demonstration on the new website that she has been working on. It is very well done and easy to use. Strawberry and Root Beer floats were then served ...what a full day! On Sunday morning we all headed down the road to the Birka church. The Nodak musicians provided the music for the Sunday Morning Worship Service. Back to the farm for our breakfast and good-byes! Butch and MaryLou gave each of us a cute Boondock salt & pepper shaker set that they had made. A great big THANK YOU to the Woods for a fabulous weekend! They were fortunate to have help from their daughter and son-law and it made for a weekend we will all long remember! And now you know why Down in the Boondocks was the place to be!!

A Note From President John

Greetings from Southwestern North Dakota

Our year for rallies is over. We had 3 great rallies and a wonderful rolling rally. Thanks to all who participated in them. A big thank you to the rally hosts. Without all of our great people, we couldn't survive as a club!

In 2015 we added 3 new couples to our Ramblin' NoDaks family. It's great to have new people join us. Thank you to their sponsors. Be on the lookout for perspective new members. There's someone out there looking for a great group like ours.

Elections were held and all offices will stay the same except for the Vice-President and Web Master. We welcome Gene Grimm as our new Vice President and Pam Meier as our new Web Master. Thanks to the officers for all their support for the last two years. I appreciate all your help.

As before, my goal is to have everyone attend at least one rally per year. We were down a little this year from last year. We had 52% of our members who attended at least one rally. I know it will be better next year.

We have all of our 2016 Rallies booked. I am looking for August and September rallies for 2017. Or, if you really want to plan ahead, I'm looking for 2018 also.

Please look elsewhere in the newsletter about bylaw changes, the Winter Di-Hards Christmas Party, next year's rallies and our new website.

As I have said before, Pam and I do truly enjoy being a part of the Ramblin' NoDaks. We have gained such great friends and we have toured and seen so many places that we never would have gone to.

For now, God Bless. Safe travels wherever you will be going to this winter. See you in May in Mandan.

John Meier, President

This is the last Newsletter you will receive until next spring. And remember, you will not be getting this by snail mail anymore! (except those of you who do not have email.) Also included with this newsletter will be the minutes of the last meeting. The new roster will be sent in a separate email. Please check your information and let me know if it is not correct! There were a lot of numbers to type and I am sure that I have made more than one mistake! So if you would PLEASE let me know if I need to make a correction, I will get that done before next spring. It is my goal to have that list as correct and current as possible. Thank You for your cooperation.

Margaret



LET'S RALLY IN WINNIPEG

JUNE 13-19, 2016

The Canadian Northern Lights are busy planning this Joint Rally — All the information we will need to register for this Rally will be published in the first Newsletter next spring. But from what we heard from Brian Little at Washburn, it's shaping up to be a really great rally —

plan now to attend and put those dates on your calendar...

2016 Rally Schedule

May 12-15	Mandan
Bill & Becky Sommers, Mike & Shirley Sommers, Ernie & Francis Fritz	
June 13-19	Winnipeg
Joint Rally with CNL	
July 7-10	Hazen Bay
Dave & Barb Kitzan	
August 4-7	Rugby
Dick & Alice Gunter	
September 8-11	Fargo
Dave & Jenean Baumann	

A Little Humor from John

Two priests die at the same time and meet St Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter says, "I'd like to get you guys in now but our computers are down. You'll have to go back to earth for about a week, but you can't go back as humans. What'll it be?"

The first priest says, "I've always wanted to be an eagle, soaring about the Rocky Mountains."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and off flies the first priest.

The second priest mulls this over for a moment and asks, "Will you be keeping track of us, St. Peter?"

"No, I told you the computer is down. There's no way we can keep track of what you are doing. This week's a freebie."

"In that case," says the second priest, "I've always wanted to be a stud."

"So be it," says St. Peter, and the second priest disappears.

A weeks goes by, the computer is fixed and the Lord tells St. Peter to recall the two priests.

"Will you have trouble locating them?" he asks.

"The first one should be easy," says St. Peter. "He's somewhere over the Rocky Mountains, flying with the eagles. But the second one could prove to be more difficult."

"Why?" asks the Lord.

"Because he's on a snow tire somewhere in Alaska."

OFFICERS FOR 2016

President	John Meier
Vice President	Gene Grimm
Secretary	Becky Sommers
Treasurer	Pam Meier
Parliamentarian	Karen Grimm
FMCA National Director	Duane Hellman
FMCA Alt. National Director	Larry Gjerstad
MAC Representative	Gene Grimm
Wagon Master	Duane Hellman
Security	Bill Sommers
Chaplains	Judy Boe, Alice Gunter, Shirley Sommers
Nominating Committee	John Ringland, Ardell Lynne, Karen Grimm
Web Master	Pam Meier
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Gjerstad

DUES

Just a reminder — dues are due by January 1st!
It was decided at the last meeting that if your dues haven't been paid by then, we will publish a list of those who have not paid —

Ackerman, J	King
Ackerman, D	Lawson
Boe	Morgan
Borud	Morrow
Brackin	Mychasiuk
Burdeniuk	Pankratz
Chesla	Pierce
Emmett	Rutledge
Fritz	Sigurdson
Grimm	Sommers, B
Grindy	Unger
Harrington	Updyke
Hiebert	Widmer
Hopfauf	Zimmerman
Jaeger	

The dues are \$15.00 / year payable to
Ramblin' Nodaks and send to:
Pam Meier
9605 133rd Ave SW
Scranton, ND 58653



"Winter Di-Hards" Christmas Party

The Christmas Party for the "Winter Di-Hards" will be held at the Elks Club in Bismarck on Saturday, December 12th at 6:00 pm. Please bring a \$10 gift to exchange. If you would like to come, please call Becky (701-258-8854) to RSVP by December 5th.

BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES

The Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Ramblin No-Daks chapter are being reviewed and revised by the Chapter Officers. These will be voted on in Mandan at our next official chapter meeting in May 2016. If you have any questions, please contact one of the officers.

TRIVIA NEWSFRONT

1. What laundry product took care of "ring around the collar"?
2. Which rental car company uses the slogan "We try harder."?
3. Name the company whose catchphrase was "Nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven."?
4. What product used a female speaking, "It's manly ..but I like it, too!"?
5. Which product said, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature"?



Larry and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable winter ... wherever you may chose to spend it!
God Bless Margaret

NEW WEBSITE

With the retirement of Darel Harrington from being our Web Master, I have volunteered to build and maintain a new one. This is a work in progress. This is the official website for the Ramblin' NoDaks and for the Canadian Northern Lights. I would be happy to hear any suggestions or comments. Please go to the site and check it out. The website is www.ramblinnodaks.com. If you go to a password protected page, the password is:

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Pam Meier, Web Master

FMCA ASSIST

After the business meeting in Washburn, John and Pam gave a presentation on FMCA Assist, which is included with your full or associate FMCA membership. Family Motor Coach Association members receive coverage under the group's FMCA Assist emergency medical evacuation/repatriation and travel assistance program as part of their regular annual dues. This plan is through a company called Seven Corners, Inc. If you want detailed information you can go to FMCA.SEVENCORNERS.COM. Brochures are available which give all the details of the plan. Briefly, it covers the following: Emergency Medical Evacuation/Repatriation; Return of Mortal Remains; Emergency Medical Reunion; Return of Dependents; Pet Return, Vehicle Return, Prescription Medication and Glasses Replacement, Assistance Services. You are eligible to use this plan if you are traveling more than 100 miles from your permanent residence (if you are a full-time RVer with no permanent residence, the 100-mile restriction does not apply). Pam and John will be willing to answer any questions that you might have. This is one of the great benefits we receive for being members of FMCA.



1. Wisk 2. Avis 3. Pillsbury 4. Irish Spring Soap 5. Chiffon Margarine